

Child Welfare Advisory Committee
Friday December 5, 2014
MEETING MINUTES

Members present:

Jerry Foxhoven, Gail Barber, George Belitsos, Jake Carmi, Julie Heiderscheit, Nancy Magnall, Jean McAleer, Denise Moore, Susan Walkup, David Zimmerman, Rep Marti Anderson, Wendy Rickman. (phone) Nancy Magnall and Julie Mann Phillips.

Members absent:

Ann Gruenwald, Chris Secrist, Sen. Amanda Ragan, Sen Amy Sinclair, Rep Rob Taylor, Charles M. Palmer.

Visitors present:

Nathan Kirstein and Beth Rydberg

Meeting called to order at 1:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes for the September 12, 2014 meeting stand approved as written.

Report on Funding/Budget for DHS:

Budget update:

- There continues to be an anticipated Medicaid shortfall in the near and long term. Director Palmer asked all Division Administrators to review all program areas for possible efficiencies. He was clear that core services were not to be impacted. From a child welfare perspective, it was determined we would be able to operate a fully functional service array and be able to put one million dollars on the table for consideration.
- There were two other budget requests in the CFS portion:
 - A request to sustain the foster group care rebasing increase Wendy explained what this rebase effort was comprised of)
 - Additional dollars were requested to compensate for the reduction in FFP (Federal Funding Participation or match rate)

- DHS will present its budget to the Governor at 10:00 am on Monday December 8th, 2014. DHS will present a PowerPoint presentation that will be available on our website following the presentation.

Procurement update:

- We have on our web site a child welfare services re-procurement time line. The procurement timeline is on target and we are hitting all of our deadlines.

Report on Children's Justice Activities:

- The Supreme Court approved new standards for our parent's representation in October 2013, to be effective January 1, 2015. The standards require that 3 hours of the CLE training must be juvenile approved in order for that attorney to serve in the Juvenile Court as a contract attorney. Iowa Children's Justice has approved 130 hours of training as juvenile related in calendar 2014. They are listed on our website at:
http://www.iowacourts.gov/Administration/Childrens_Justice/Approved_Juvenile_Training_for_Attorneys/index.asp.
- Each contract attorney that wants to serve Juvenile Court in 2015 is asked to verify in their contract with the State Public Defender's Office that they have taken at least 3 approved juvenile CLE hours of training. Online on-demand training opportunities are listed on our website also.
- Last spring the legislature was supportive of the court's request for support for Family Drug Court. They have encouraged us to implement Family treatment Court statewide. We presently have 12 Courts and planning going on for a FTC in the 1st and 4th Judicial Districts. The legislative funding support is specific to hiring FTC coordinators. We are presently filling those positions for our existent courts.
- We received a 2 year planning grant to expand family treatment court opportunities. As part of this grant, we are also holding a Leadership Institute to engage the health care and early childhood education community in reducing or preventing pre-natal and peri-natal substance exposure. ICJ has contracted with Dr. Ira Chasnoff to lead the leadership institute in February. The Grant was for 250 thousand per year for two years and includes consultation with National Center of Substance Abuse and Child Welfare. At the end of the two year planning grant and consultation there may be an opportunity to apply for a 3 year implementation grant.

- We are also working with DHS and Dr. Chasnoff on developing a very brief screening when they are working with families in order to identify the kids that don't show the characteristic physical signs of fetal alcohol but have some marked behaviors already started.

Update on Investigations by DRI (Disability Rights Iowa):

- We are a National System of Disabilities Rights Protection and Advocacy Systems. Every State and Territory has a Protection and Advocacy System. In Iowa we are an independent nonprofit origination.
- We provide disability related advocacy to Iowan's with disabilities and we have the authority to conduct investigation of physical, sexual, or verbal abuse. Inappropriate or excessive use of physical or chemical restraints. Failure to provide adequate discharge planning. Inappropriate mental health or medical treatment. Forced treatment without informed consent. Denial of services or treatment. Denial of due process.
- We looked at the Iowa Juvenile Girls State Training School. We extensively went through their documentation, special education programs of each student. We filed a complaint with the Department of Education in order to have them investigated. A 75 page decision came back from Thomas Mays and the Attorney for the Department of Education and they found several of those violations to be true.
- We also included private agencies, Clarinda Academy , the AEA and local school districts were named as defendants also on the state complaint and the their compensatory education was ordered for all eligible students within a one year time frame a corrective action plan required and additional training was also required.

Status of Children's Council Proposal & Future:

Nothing new at this time

Report on Human Trafficking Issue:

George Belitsos shared a pamphlet entitled Human Trafficking Victim Services. There is a state wide group, and there are three area groups one in the eastern part of the state, one in the western part of the state and a new group in central Iowa. These groups meet quarterly and there are several subcommittees. If you would be interested in being on one of these groups let George know.

Public Comment:

The Family rights group had Jerry send out a survey to the members of CWAC.
No further Public Comment.

Future Meeting Dates (Scheduling and agenda development):

Our next meeting will be held March 13th 2015, in the Clinic Library at the Drake Legal Clinic from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Kim Shackelford
Recording Secretary

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.